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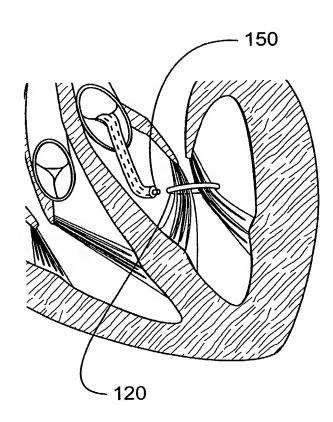
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CHORDAE TENDINAE GIRDLE



(57) Abstract: A girdle (120) for surrounding the chordae tendinae (136) of a heart valve, and a system (200) and method for delivering the girdle (120). The girdle (120) gathers the chordae tendinae (136) into a bundle to effectively shorten the chordae tendinae (136) to resolve or reduce valve leaflet prolapse. The system (200) includes a girdle (120) releaseably carried within a delivery catheter (132), and a push rod (150) to release the girdle (120) from the delivery catheter (132). The girdle (120) has a filamentous linear delivery configuration and one of several annular treatment configurations. The girdle (320) may have a locking mechanism (350) for locking the girdle (320) in an annular treatment configuration.

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category * Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P US 6,629,534 B1 (ST. GOAR et al) 07 October 20	US 6,629,534 B1 (ST. GOAR et al) 07 October 2003 (07.10.2003), see Figures 6, 36A-40 1-16 and column 5, lines 56-60.	
X US 2002/0035361 A1 (HOUSER et al) 21 March 2	US 2002/0035361 A1 (HOUSER et al) 21 March 2002 (21.03.2002), see Figures 21A-22B, paragraphs [0012], [0039], [0102], [0111], [0112].	
Y [2002], [2002], [211], [2112].		
X US 6,402,781 B1 (LANGBERG et al) 11 June 2002	US 6,402,781 B1 (LANGBERG et al) 11 June 2002 (11.06.2002), see Figures 5 and 6, column 10, lines 14-16, column 11, lines 35-37 and columns 11-12, lines 61-34.	
Y		
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